

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-13 and 15-18 were considered by the Office Action. Of those, claims 1 and 16 stand rejected as allegedly anticipated by Patent No. 6,005,377 to Chen; claims 4 and 18 stand rejected as allegedly obvious over Chen; claims 6-13 and 15 are considered allowable and claims 2-17 are considered allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Examiner also objects to the drawings. In view of the amendments made herein and the remarks that follow, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Replacement Drawings

The Examiner objected to drawings for not showing a storage register and a counter as recited in Claim 1. Applicant submits a replacement drawing for Fig. 1 which shows storage register 35 and counter 37. Additionally, the specification has been amended to reference storage register 35 and counter 37 in the replacement Fig. 1. No new matter has been added. Entry of the amendment and withdrawal of the drawing objections are respectfully requested.

Allowable Claims

Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, allowability of claims 6-13 and 15.

Claim Amendments

The Office Action considers claims 2 and 17 allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To expedite prosecution, claims 2 and 17 have been amended to incorporate the recitation of independent claims 1 and 16, respectively. Claims 1 and 16 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 4 and 18 have been amended to depend from claims 2 and 17, respectively. Applicant submits that claims 2, 4, and 17-18 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

If any point remains that is deemed best resolved through a telephonic conversation, the Office is hereby requested to contact the undersigned directly.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Comtois', written over a horizontal line.

Mark Comtois

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